

Message Text

SECRET

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45

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 CCO-00 INRE-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-15

RSC-01 INR-10 PRS-01 USSS-00 OPR-02 SY-10 OC-06 EUR-25

IO-15 AF-10 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /148 W

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5123

INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE NIACT

S E C R E T JIDDA 4352

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, SA

SUBJECT: A/DCM DISCUSSIONS IN RIYADH

REF JIDDA 4339

SUMMARY: SAG OFFICIALS SEEM CONCERNED THAT PROLONGED FIGHTING WILL
CREATE PRESSURES FOR MORE ACTIVE SAUDI STANCE; JORDAN'S ACTIONS
IMPORTANT IN DETERMINING SAG'S COURSE. END SUMMARY

1. A/DCM BIRD LEARNED FROM BRITISH FIRST SECRETARY IN
RIYADH THAT PRINCE FAHD'S ASSISTANCE, MAHMOUD MALHAS SAID
HE MORE THAN DISTURBED BY EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN ACTIONS
WHICH SEEMED TO BE POINTLESS EXERCISE LEADING ONLY TO
BAD CONSEQUENCES FOR EVERYONE. SAUDI ARABIA NEVERTHELESS,
FOR DOMESTIC REASONS IF FOR NO OTHER, WOULD HAVE TO
SUPPORT BOTH COUNTRIES, MILITARILY IF NEED BE. MALHAS
SAID THAT THERE COULD BE NO DOUBT THAT EGYPT STARTED THE
BATTLE AND SAG FEARFUL OF WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IN THE
NEXT 24 HOURS. SAG WOULD HAVE TO PUT UP OR SHUT UP,
ACCORDING TO MALHAS.

2. BIRD REPORTS THAT WELL-CONNECTED DEP DIRECTOR

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OF GENERAL PERSONNEL BUREAU TURKI BIN SUDAYRI EVEN MORE

UPSET AT EGYPT'S AND SYRIA'S MOVES, BUT SAID SAUDI ARABIA HAD NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO RESPOND IN EVERY WAY IT COULD IF IT BECAME NECESSARY TO HELP THEM. KEY TO SITUATION IN HIS MIND WAS JORDAN: IF KING HUSSEIN ENTERED THE WAR, SAG WOULD HAVE TO DO SO.

3. PRINCE SAUD BIN FAYSAL, IN A CONVERSATION ON 8 OCT TOLD BIRD THAT THE POLICY AS ENUNCIATED IN KING'S LETTER TO KISSINGER WOULD STAND: KING FAYSAL WOULD HAVE TO SUPPORT EGYPT AND SYRIA. PRINCE SAUD SAID THAT FACT OF WHO STARTED THE FIGHTING STILL UNSETTLED, DESPITE THE STATEMENT OF THE FRENCH PREMIER AND THAT IN ANY CASE, WHO COULD SAY THAT EGYPT AND SYRIA DID NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO RESTORE THEIR OCCUPIED LANDS TO THEMSELVES. HE CLAIMED US HAD PROVEN IT WAS FOLLOWING ABBA EBAN BY MODIFYING ITS INITIAL RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A CEASE FIRE TO INCLUDE A RETURN TO OCT 6 LINE. WHAT WAS SO MAGIC ABOUT THE OCT 6 LINE, HE ASKED. PRINCE NOTED FIGHTING HAD ALREADY AFFECTED OIL PICTURE THROUGH NATIONALIZATION OF U.S.-OWNED PORTIONS OF BASRA PET CO.

4. COMMENT: SAG UNCOMFORTABLY AWARE THAT PROLONGED HOSTILITIES WILL CREATE PRESSURES ON IT TO TAKE MORE ACTIVE STANCE.
HORAN

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